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R. A. Christian

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Chronic Inflammation of the
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Chronic Inflammation of the Stomach

The numerous and important connections of the stomach, its situation and functions, render it extremely liable to morbid derangement. Accordingly we have a very extensive Catalogue of diseases, having their seat in that important organ. In fact, even diseases that were formerly considered entirely unconnected with it, have, by more recent observations, been incontestably proven, to have their seats entirely there, producing their effects, on other systems of the body, entirely through the medium of sympathetic action.

To this enormous Catalogue of gastric diseases there is another, to be added, which, though frequently met with has never, I believe been described by any writer, and the credit of having first brought it into notice, is due to Dr. Chapman. From the hints thrown out, by the professor in his lectures on this subject, my attention was first directed to the disease, and although the short period, that has since elapsed, has necessarily prevented my observing many

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cases of it, yet the few that I have seen, have been sufficient to convince me, that its occurrence is by no means rare frequent.

The disease in question is a slow or chronic Inflammation of the stomach. It occurs most frequently in miasmatic situations, being, I believe, frequently the relict of Bilious, Remitting, and Intermitting Fevers. It attacks generally persons of delicate habits and very often those, who from their peculiar conformation, seem particularly predisposed to Pulmonary Consumption. I have seen one family in which this seemed to be a predisposition to the disease, most of the members being affected with it soon after they arrived at the age of puberty.

Symptoms. The symptoms of this, like other Gastric affections, are numerous, and very much diversified. So extensive indeed is the chain of sympathies arising from the stomach, so intimately is it connected with every part of our structure, however remote, that in the diseases of that organ most of them become affected, and present to us some symptoms of derangement.

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The disease is generally attended with a constant obtuse pain, and sensation of heat in the region of the stomach, great restlessness, and a slow fever, which is attended with a hot, dry and constricted skin, a dry and hacking cough, hurried respiration, a white and dry tongue, and a pulse frequent chorded and small. As the disease advances, these symptoms are aggravated, and numerous sympathetic pains are felt in different parts of the body. - The head is much affected throughout its whole course; the patient is perpetually tormented with a dull headach, shooting pains over the eyes, and the eyes themselves are not unfrequently affected, with the same kind of pain. These symptoms are always increased when substances are taken into the stomach, particularly if they be hard of digestion, or the stomach be distended by them. We also have, numerous pains about the neck, shoulders, and thorax shifting very frequently their situation. Sometimes they are seated in the right side, but much more frequently, in the left, extending to the shoulder.

In addition to these symptoms, the patient is particularly sensible to the least variation in the state of the atmosphere,

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and these vicissitudes, very generally, produce an exacerbation of the disease. – The appetite is not always impaired, in fact it is most frequently, morbidly increased. The countenance assumes much the same appearance as in Pulmonary Consumption. The cheeks are suffused with the hectic blush, the features are sharp, and the exhaustion of the system, in many cases, equally great.

The lips are generally covered with a peculiar scaly eruption and occasionally an eruption appears about the mouth and fauces, accompanied by a soreness, extending along the course of the alimentary canal, producing the symptoms of the disease called chronic Thrush, which, in my opinion, is very often connected with the condition of the stomach under consideration, or in other words, an aggravated form of this disease. This opinion I am led to adopt, not only from the appearances of inflammation, revealed by dissection in such cases, but also having observed those symptoms occur several times during the existence of this disease, from some cause tending to increase the irritation, and inflammation of the stomach.

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[illegible] this and several other Diseases affecting [illegible] be scarcely discerned there are many distinguishing points [illegible] resemblance and consequently particular care [illegible] forming a diagnosis. The diseases with which it is most liable to be confounded are Dyspepsia, Chronic Hepatitis and Pulmonary Consumption; I shall therefore mention the most characteristic differences between them [illegible]

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[illegible] being —

[illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] due-
tive of much importance entirely opposite plan of treatment, being
denounced.

9th. From Chronic Hepatitis it may be distinguished by the heat of
the skin, the sensation of heat in the abdomen, these being aggra-
vated when any thing is taken into the stomach, and the urine being
pale, the pulse being frequent, but small in the [illegible]
appearance [illegible]

Chronic Hepatitis in a continuance may assume the tinted
and sallow appearance, which usually marks the disease, [illegible]
rind, but on the contrary, that shadowy appearance, and hectic dispo-
[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]

10th. To distinguish it from Pulmonary Consumption, there is
considerable difficulty, there is other [illegible] always
exists with the combined stage of the [illegible]
[illegible] in this case, the absence of
always determine [illegible] difference
stages of the disease, the [illegible] pain
[illegible] increasing debility to the [illegible], and [illegible]
symptomatic affections, will be sufficient to distinguish them.

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ents been

[illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] during this condition of the stomach, are generally [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] frequent [illegible], and the [illegible] [illegible] use of stimulants [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. It is also [illegible] [illegible] mentioned frequently, the [illegible] of [illegible] diseases having their seat in the stomach, badly cured. In many cases, however, it is extremely difficult [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] cause, except a peculiar indisp[illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Treatment. The cure of this disease, although [illegible], is generally [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from the great exhaustion of the system [illegible] is a singular [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] dyspepsia, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] place [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] tonics and stimulants have been employed to their full extent. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], as [illegible] of the debility, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], by adding to the irritation of the [illegible], increase the inflammation and consequently

[illegible] add to the debility, and general exhaustion of the system.

[illegible] at each [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] unnecessary [illegible] chiefly to relieve, but to [illegible] is requisite to [illegible] large bleedings, although [illegible] is required to be drawn, [illegible] the disease [illegible] [illegible] be well regulated [illegible] to the [illegible]. [illegible] cases [illegible] a very small quantity [illegible] can be drawn at once, [illegible] to repeat the operation [illegible] sufficient [illegible].

In the ordinary cases of the disease, [illegible] repeated every week or fortnight, [illegible] at first, and gradually diminishing the quantity [illegible]

each succeeding operation, [illegible] generally [illegible]

[illegible]

tary Canal, being accumulated, and not being acted on by the diseased [illegible], [illegible] greatly in their [illegible], and consequent [illegible] of the organs. These accumulations are, I believe, very frequently the cause of that aggravated form of the disease, which [illegible] before mentioned, called [illegible] Asthma. I have seen a very striking example of [illegible] who had, for several years, been afflicted with the disease [illegible] in that [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible], or the costiveness which in his case was very troublesome [illegible] regularly repeated every [illegible] When [illegible] this gentleman failed to [illegible] almost always had [illegible] greatly aggravated, [illegible] [illegible] evacuate his bowels, [illegible]

[illegible]

are the most proper. They should be continued long
to produce one or two evacuations, daily. When these
are insufficient to overcome the costive habit, more
powerful articles should be employed
[illegible] cases when properly employed [illegible] of great
utility. They evacuate the irritating contents
of the stomach, which, if retained, would produce very unpleasant
[illegible] symptoms. [illegible]
they should never be neglected. Here, as we before observed, the collection of irritating matter in the stomach is the cause of the disease, and when thus produced
[illegible] employ the [illegible]
[illegible] of any [illegible]
[illegible] effects of Emetics to be ascribed solely to the evacuation they produce, on the contrary, a more perceptible, more benefit, is derived from the peculiar impression produced by them, on the stomach, which is more or less inconsistent with its diseased action

The vomiting in this case should be gentle, for when a very active article is employed, or

the exertion very often repeated [illegible] inclined to shew, that the pain [illegible] by reaching more in the [illegible] and displacement of the stomach by these [illegible] alternating actions. Hence the [illegible] formed in consequence of these [illegible] are so numerous, the painful arising from the [illegible] attributed to them, a considerable part [illegible] this condition.

But it is presumed [illegible] with the [illegible] actions of vomiting, that in succeeding days there are also [illegible] [illegible] in this way [illegible] excitement, whilst they relieve that irritation by relieving the stomach, which always [illegible] permanent fulness in the [illegible]. By [illegible] so small as not to produce [illegible] the [illegible] have not yet an alteration to the stomach, imperceptibly breaking down its diseased actions, and [illegible], and giving the

opportunity

opportunity of reassuming its natural and healthy per[illegible]ing.

The next remedy to be mentioned is the injecting [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] being suf-ficiently acquainted [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] must be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a different [illegible] [illegible] black. They should be [illegible] and applied [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] In order however [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] discharge [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] continued [illegible] applied as [illegible] as the discharge ceases.

Should these remedies prove unsuccess-ful we must as a last resource resort to the use of [illegible] [illegible] to the extent of [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible]

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Even if in the plan of treatment we have succeeded in removing the disease, it is, I think, of great importance to resort to a slight course of mercury, in order to destroy the predisposition of the system, to the disease, which frequently remains, and is for this slightest cause excited into action.

As cooperating with these remedies, a very careful attention to the diet and drinks of the patient, should be observed. The diet should be of the lightest kind, and any of a stimulating nature or hard of digestion, should be avoided. Milk with some one of the farinaceous articles will constitute the most proper diet. The drink should be pure water. Fermented and spirituous liquors should be carefully avoided. There is perhaps, one exception ~~and exception to this practice~~, that is, when the patient has been in the habit of using them freely

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very freely. In this case, as in all others, if the patient is not allowed his usual stimulus, or some substitute, very dangerous consequences may result.

The Dress should be adapted particularly to the changes of weather. Flannel should be worn next the skin both winter and summer; by it the cutaneous vessels are stimulated, producing a constant determination to the surface, which cannot fail to be of the utmost importance.

In addition to these exercise accommodated to the strength of the system should never be neglected.

Here then gentlemen I finish this imperfect sketch of the very important disease before us, of its many defects, I am fully conscious, and therefore present it to your consideration, with the utmost diffidence and anxiety. My anxiety would be even ~~to~~ greater than it now

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is, were I not convinced of the candour, and liberality, of that body, to whom it is submitted, and from whom, I am confident, every reasonable indulgence, will be obtained.

All that now remains, is for me to present to you, my sincere thanks, for the benefit I have derived from your several lectures. May your very successful exertions, continue to reflect that honour on our country, which they have heretofore done, May the school which you now support, continue to shed its fertile rays, not only, to our own country but to the remotest parts of the earth. May your lives be long, illustrious, and happy, whilst your talents, zeal, & industry are objects of emulation, all over the world.

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